

**Coral Management Committee Report
January 27, 2020
Dr. Thomas Frazer – Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab N, No. 1**) with the following modification: the SSC report was to be delivered in advance of the summary of proposed changes for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The Committee subsequently approved the minutes of the October 2019 meeting (**Tab N, No. 2**) as written.

Recommendations to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) (Tab N, No. 4)

Staff presented a summary of the proposed changes included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and also provided a summary of the comments and recommendations from various Advisory Panels (APs) and the Science and Statistical Committee (SSC). An extension of the deadline for the Council to provide recommendations on the DEIS to the Sanctuary on or before February 27th, 2020 had been granted previously so that this input could be incorporated into the Council's correspondence.

The Committee had the opportunity to discuss proposed changes in detail, possible ramifications of those changes and express other issues/concerns. Of specific interest were issues related to:

- Sanctuary boundary expansion
- Sanctuary-wide regulations and the proposed phase-out of bait fishing permits in Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs)
- Changes around the Dry Tortugas and Pulley Ridge
- Changes in Florida and South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Key comments from the Council were captured and synthesized by staff. Those comments are appended to this report and will be further discussed in Full Council to guide in the Council's recommendations to the FKNMS. Those recommendations will be provided to the FKNMS in the form of a letter prior to February 27th.

Recommendations from the Joint Gulf and South Atlantic Spiny Lobster Advisory Panels (Tab N, No. 5)

Staff provided an overview of discussion at the November 13th, 2019 meeting, where the Spiny Lobster Advisory Panels were able to provide recommendations on the FKNMS Restoration Blueprint in addition to others items related to the spiny lobster fishery in the Florida Keys.

This concludes my report.

List of discussed topics where consensus by the Council is requested:

1. Sanctuary boundary
 - a. No change
 - b. Proposed western and southern expansion (Alternative 2, 3, and 4) (Shrimp AP)
 - c. Modified boundary discussed during Committee (Ecological Reserve South)
 - d. Pulley Ridge
2. Regulatory language and clarity
 - a. Definition of traditional fishing and allowable gear
 - b. Navigational regulations (e.g., no entry, no motor, trolling speed)
 - c. Inclusion of table with coordinates for the proposed marine zones
3. Idle speed in large open ocean areas are not necessary
4. Tortugas Corridor (insufficient data to justify year-round closure and idle speed)
5. Bait fishing permits in Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) should be grandfathered in
6. Emergency rule language (changing rule language from 2-6 months is not necessary)
7. Inclusion of additional supporting data and more updated economic-impact analyses
8. Jt. Spiny Lobster AP motion to consider no anchoring and no harvest by all user groups for the areas identified in Spiny Lobster Amendment 11
9. Increased collaboration is needed
 - a. Inter-agency
 - b. With fishers and other fishery stakeholders
10. Cooperative Fishery Management Agreement should be updated